United Nations A/62/423/Add.1

General Assembly

Distr.: General
10 December 2007

Original: English

Sixty-second session
Agenda item 58 (a)

Eradication of poverty and other development issues: implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Ms. Tamar **Tchitanava** (Georgia)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 58 (see A/62/423, para. 2). Action on sub-item (a) was taken at the 26th and 32nd meetings, on 13 November and 7 December 2007. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/62/SR.26 and 32).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/62/L.30 and A/C.2/62/L.55

2. At the 26th meeting, on 13 November, the representative of Pakistan, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Proclamation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017)" (A/C.2/62/L.30), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 47/196 of 22 December 1992, 48/183 of 21 December 1993, 50/107 of 20 December 1995, 56/207 of 21 December 2001, 57/265 and 57/266 of 20 December 2002, 58/222 of 23 December 2003, 59/247 of 22 December 2004, 60/209 of 22 December 2005 and 61/213 of 20 December 2006,

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in four parts, under the symbol A/62/423 and Add.1-3.

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"*Recalling also* the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted by Heads of State and Government on the occasion of the Millennium Summit, and their commitment to eradicate extreme poverty and to halve, by 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than one dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger,

"*Recalling further* the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

"*Recalling* its resolution 60/265 of 30 June 2006 on the follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and the other internationally agreed development goals,

"*Recalling also* its resolution 61/16 of 20 November 2006 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council,

"*Recalling further* the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly,

"*Expressing its concern* that, even after the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006), the number of people living in extreme poverty in many countries continues to increase, with women and children constituting the majority and the most affected groups, especially in the least developed countries and in particular in sub-Saharan Africa,

"*Encouraged* by reductions in poverty in some countries in the recent past, and determined to reinforce and extend this trend to benefit people worldwide,

"*Recognizing* that mobilizing financial resources for development at the national and international levels and the effective use of those resources are central to a global partnership for development in support of the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

"*Acknowledging* that sustained economic growth, supported by rising productivity and a favourable environment, including private investment and entrepreneurship, is necessary to eradicate poverty, achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and realize a rise in living standards, and concerned that global economic growth experienced during the first Decade was in general a jobless growth,

"*Underlining* the priority and urgency given by the Heads of State and Government to the eradication of poverty, as expressed in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006),

"2. *Recognizes* the contribution that the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty made towards poverty eradication which includes, inter alia, the adoption of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

"3. *Proclaims* the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017);

"4. *Stresses* the importance of the follow-up to the outcomes of the International Conference on Financing for Development and the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and calls for the full and effective implementation of the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ('Johannesburg Plan of Implementation'), as well as the outcomes of other major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields;

"5. *Reiterates* that eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, in particular for developing countries;

"6. *Urges* all Member States, the international community, including the United Nations system, and all other actors to continue to pursue the objective of the eradication of poverty in developing countries, in particular in the least developed countries;

"7. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to pursue seriously the objective of poverty eradication and to scale up the support to the efforts of middle income countries during the Second United Nations Decade regardless of their level of development, since those countries still face significant challenges in the area of poverty eradication;

"8. *Reiterates* the need to strengthen the leadership role of the United Nations in promoting international cooperation for development, critical for the eradication of poverty;

"9. *Stresses* the importance of ensuring, at the intergovernmental and inter-agency levels, coherent, comprehensive and integrated activities for the eradication of poverty in accordance with the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields;

"10. *Calls upon* donor countries to continue to give priority to the eradication of poverty in their assistance programmes and budgets, on either a bilateral or a multilateral basis;

"11. *Reiterates* the need to strengthen efforts to eradicate the scourges of poverty and hunger and to make that goal the central priority of national development strategies and international development cooperation;

"12. *Recognizes* that sustained economic growth is essential for eradicating poverty and hunger, in particular in developing countries, and underlines that national efforts in this regard should be complemented by an enabling international environment;

"13. *Recognizes* that, for developing countries to reach the targets set in the context of national development strategies for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in particular the goal on the eradication of poverty, and for such poverty eradication strategies to be effective, it is imperative that developing countries be integrated into the world economy and share equitably in the benefits of globalization;

"14. *Reaffirms* the commitment to broaden and strengthen the voice and participation of developing countries in international economic decision-making and

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norm-setting, and stresses the need to continue efforts to reform the international financial architecture, including expeditiously concluding, in a time-bound manner, the issue of enhanced voting power of developing countries in the Bretton Woods institutions;

"15. *Recognizes* the importance of official development assistance as a major source of financing development for developing countries, and urges developed countries to fulfil the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance;

"16. *Calls upon* the developed countries, by means of intensified and effective cooperation with developing countries, to promote capacity-building and facilitate access to and transfer of technologies and corresponding knowledge, in particular to developing countries, on favourable terms, including concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, taking into account the need to protect intellectual property rights, as well as the special needs of developing countries;

"17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session a report containing comprehensive recommendations and a plan of action to make the Second Decade effective;

"18. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-third session the item entitled 'Implementation of the second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017)'."

3. At its 32nd meeting, on 7 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017)" (A/C.2/62/L.55), submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee, Tamar Tchitanava (Georgia), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.30.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

5. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.55 (see para. 8).

6. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Portugal (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union and Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), Japan and Croatia (see A/C.2/62/SR.32).

7. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.55, draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.30 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

8. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 47/196 of 22 December 1992, 48/183 of 21 December 1993, 50/107 of 20 December 1995, 56/207 of 21 December 2001, 57/265 and 57/266 of 20 December 2002, 58/222 of 23 December 2003, 59/247 of 22 December 2004, 60/209 of 22 December 2005 and 61/213 of 20 December 2006,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted by Heads of State and Government on the occasion of the Millennium Summit,[1] and their commitment to eradicate extreme poverty and to halve, by 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than one dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger,

Recalling further the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[2]

Recalling its resolution 60/265 of 30 June 2006 on the follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and the other internationally agreed development goals,

Recalling also its resolution 61/16 of 20 November 2006 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council,

Recalling further the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development[3] and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly,[4]

Expressing concern that, after the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, and midway to the 2015 Millennium Development Goal target date, while there has been progress in reducing poverty in some regions, this progress has been uneven and the number of people living in poverty in some countries continues to increase, with women and children constituting the majority of the most affected groups, especially in the least developed countries and in particular in sub-Saharan Africa,

Encouraged by reductions in poverty in some countries in the recent past, and determined to reinforce and extend this trend to benefit people worldwide,

Recognizing that mobilizing financial resources for development at the national and international levels and the effective use of those resources are central to a global partnership for development in support of the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

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[1] See resolution 55/2.

[2] See resolution 60/1.

[3] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[4] Resolution S-24/2, annex.

Acknowledging that sustained economic growth, supported by rising productivity and a favourable environment, including private investment and entrepreneurship, is necessary to eradicate poverty, achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and realize a rise in living standards,

Underlining the priority and urgency given by the Heads of State and Government to the eradication of poverty, as expressed in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[5]

2. *Recognizes* that during the implementation of the first Decade the international community adopted, inter alia, the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1] the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,[6] and the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[2] which are mechanisms to focus national, regional and international efforts towards achieving poverty eradication;

3. *Proclaims* the second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) in order to support, in an efficient and coordinated manner, the internationally agreed development goals related to poverty eradication, including the Millennium Development Goals;

4. *Reiterates* that eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, in particular for developing countries;

5. *Urges* all Governments, the international community, including the United Nations system, and all other actors to continue to pursue seriously the objective of the eradication of poverty;

6. *Reaffirms* that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and strategies cannot be overemphasized in the achievement of sustainable development, and recognizes that national efforts should be complemented by supportive global programmes, measures and policies aimed at expanding the development opportunities of developing countries, while taking into account national conditions and ensuring respect for national ownership, strategies and sovereignty;

7. *Reiterates* the need to strengthen the leadership role of the United Nations in promoting international cooperation for development, critical for the eradication of poverty;

8. *Stresses* the importance of ensuring, at the intergovernmental and inter-agency levels, coherent, comprehensive and integrated activities for the eradication of poverty in accordance with the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields;

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[5] A/62/267.

[6] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

9. *Calls upon* donor countries to continue to give priority to the eradication of poverty in their assistance programmes and budgets, on either a bilateral or a multilateral basis;

10. *Recognizes* that sustained economic growth is essential for eradicating poverty and hunger, in particular in developing countries, and stresses that national efforts in this regard should be complemented by an enabling international environment;

11. *Also recognizes* that, for developing countries to reach the targets set in the context of national development strategies for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in particular the goal on the eradication of poverty, and for such poverty eradication strategies to be effective, it is imperative that developing countries be integrated into the world economy and share equitably in the benefits of globalization;

12. *Further recognizes* the importance of official development assistance as a source of financing development for developing countries, calls for the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments, including the commitments by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance by 2015, and urges those developed countries that have not yet done so to make concrete efforts in this regard in accordance with their commitments;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session a report containing recommendations on how to make the second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) effective, in support of the poverty eradication-related internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

14. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-third session the item entitled "Implementation of the second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017)".